

January 17, 2014

To: Commission on Health Equity

From: Glenn A. Cassis  
Chair, Public Voice Committee

Re: Public Voice Committee Report

The Public Voice Committee met on December 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss several topics.

The Committee reviewed plans for the then upcoming welcoming reception for the Commission's new executive director, Dr. Helen Newton. The draft agenda was discussed and finalized. Guest speakers were suggested and publicity was discussed. It was decided that Christine Palm would prepare the press release and take pictures.

The reception held on Thursday, December 19 went smoothly. Although the attendance could have been better (approximately 35 – 40) the reception achieved its objective of allowing the public to meet Dr. Newton, to have specific agencies pledge their support for the Commission and provided Dr. Newton to address the public with her vision for the Commission. You can see the reception in its entirety on YouTube at:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVD7vHrNlfU&feature=em-share\\_video\\_user](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVD7vHrNlfU&feature=em-share_video_user)

The projects for the PVC for 2014 were discussed. They included creating a video (and DVD) on the CHE, assist with messaging the CLAS Standards, scheduling forums around the state (3 – 4 during the year), and sponsoring the Sabbath Week in April 2014.

As it stands, the video project will be a series of short interview/discussions by Commissioners discussing the CHE – its purpose, its importance, how it can effect change, why it exists, who it serves, what it does, etc. Scripts will be created in advance and those who want to participate will be scheduled. The video will be disseminated to local access television around the state.

***The Public Voice Committee's purpose is to gather a preliminary understanding of the perceptions of health disparities among medically underserved and socioeconomically deprived racial and ethnic minorities in the State of Connecticut. The PVC listens and disseminates information.***

Members of the Committee include:

Glenn Cassis – Chair  
Sylvia Gafford Alexander  
Stephanie Knutson  
Dr. Kelson Etienne Modeste  
Dr. Helen Newton, Ex-Officio

Dr. James Gatling  
Stephanie Paulmeno  
Christine Palm  
Betty Murray